Appl. No. 09/819,020
Amdt. Dated Feb. 1, 2005
Reply to Office action of Nov. 1, 2004

Amendments to the Claims

The following listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1.   (Currently amended) A method for a voice over internet protocol conference bridge among a plurality of user terminals comprising the steps of:

originating an internet protocol call using session initiation protocol (SIP) among the plurality of user terminals;

negotiating by the plurality of user terminals a common bearer format among the plurality of user terminals via SIP; and

coupling a data input/output of each of the plurality of user terminals to a conference bridge.

2.   (Original) The method for voice over internet protocol conference bridge as claimed in claim 1, wherein the step of coupling includes the step of coupling the plurality of user terminals to a packet switched conference bridge.

3.   (Original) The method for a voice over internet protocol conference bridge as claimed in claim 1, wherein said step of negotiating includes the step of finding a least common denominator bearer format among the plurality of user terminals.

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4.   (Original) The method for a voice over internet protocol conference bridge as claimed in claim 1, wherein said step of negotiating further includes the step of determining whether the plurality of user terminals support multiple bearer formats.

5.   (Original) The method for a voice over internet protocol conference bridge as claimed in claim 4, wherein the step of determining includes the steps of:

negotiating a homogeneous bearer format among the plurality of user terminals which have multiple bearer formats;

determining whether a common bearer format exists among the plurality of user terminals; and

canceling the step of coupling the plurality of user terminals.

6.   (Original) The method for a voice over internet protocol conference bridge as claimed in claim 5, wherein there is further included the step of coupling the plurality of user terminals with homogeneous bearer formats.

7.   (Original) The method for a voice over internet protocol conference bridge as claimed in claim 4, wherein if the plurality of user terminals supports multiple bearer formats, there is further included the steps of:

transmitting by each of said plurality of user terminals in a native bearer format; and

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each of said plurality of user terminals receiving a bearer format of others of said

plurality of user terminals and converting the received bearer format to the native bearer format

for use by each of the plurality of user terminals.

8. (Original) The method for a voice over internet protocol conference bridge as

claimed in claim 1, wherein the step of originating includes the steps of:

originating an internet call between a first party and a second party of said

plurality of user terminals;

negotiating a common bearer format between the first party and the second party;

originating an internet call to a third party by the first party;

negotiating a common bearer format between the first party and the third party;

and

repeating the steps of originating, negotiating and coupling between the first

party and another party for each of the plurality of user terminals.

9. (Original) The method for a voice over internet protocol conference bridge as

claimed in claim 1, wherein the step of coupling includes the steps of:

receiving by the conference bridge an origination from a first party of the

plurality of user terminals, said origination indicating other parties of the plurality of user

terminals to be coupled for data transfer;

originating by the conference bridge a coupling to each of the other parties of the

plurality of user terminals; and

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sending a message to each of the plurality of user terminals establishing a data

connection of the data input/output of each of the plurality of user terminals.

10.   (Currently amended)In a user terminal, a method for a voice over internet

protocol conference bridge among a plurality of user terminals comprising the steps of:

originating by the user terminal an internet protocol call using session initiation

protocol (SIP) among the plurality of user terminals;

negotiating by the user terminal and the plurality of user terminals a common

bearer format among the user terminal and the plurality of user terminals via SIP; and

requesting by the user terminal a data coupling between the user terminal and the

plurality of user terminals via a conference bridge.

11.   (Original) The method for a voice over internet protocol conference bridge as

claimed in claim 10, wherein said step of negotiating includes the step of finding a least

common denominator bearer format among the plurality of user terminals.

12.   (Original) The method for a voice over internet protocol conference bridge as

claimed in claim 10, wherein said step of negotiating further includes the step of determining

whether the plurality of user terminals support multiple bearer formats.

13.   (Original) The method for a voice over internet protocol conference bridge as

claimed in claim 12, wherein the step of determining includes the steps of:

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negotiating a homogeneous bearer format among the plurality of user terminals which have multiple bearer formats;

determining whether a common bearer format exists among the plurality of user terminals; and

canceling the step of coupling the plurality of user terminals.

14.   (Original) The method for a voice over internet protocol conference bridge as claimed in claim 13, wherein there is further included the step of coupling the plurality of user terminals with homogeneous bearer formats.

15.   (Original) The method for a voice over internet protocol conference bridge as claimed in claim 12, wherein if the plurality of user terminals supports multiple bearer formats, there is further included the steps of:

transmitting by each of said plurality of user terminals in a native bearer format; and

each of said plurality of user terminals receiving a bearer format of others of said plurality of user terminals and converting the received bearer format to the native bearer format for use by the user terminal.

16.   (Currently amended) A conference bridge apparatus for voice over internet protocol among a plurality of user terminals comprising:

a signaling coupling among the plurality of user terminals, the signaling coupling using session initiation protocol (SIP) via an internet;

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means for negotiating a common bearer format among the plurality of user

terminals <u>via SIP</u>, said means for negotiating coupled to at least one of said plurality of said user

terminals; and

a data coupling among each of the plurality of user terminals through a

conference bridge.

17.   (Original) The conference bridge apparatus as claimed in claim 16, wherein at

least one of said plurality of user terminals includes a mobile hand set.

18.   (Original) The conference bridge apparatus as claimed in claim 16, wherein at

least one of said plurality of user terminals includes a hard wired processor.

19.   (Original) The conference bridge arrangement as claimed in claim 16, wherein

the signaling coupling includes an internet protocol coupling among the plurality of user

terminals.

20.   (Original) The conference bridge arrangement as claimed in claim 16 wherein

the signaling coupling includes an internet protocol using session initiation protocol coupling

among each of the plurality of user terminals.

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